

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier.

1. (Currently Amended) An embolism protection device comprising a plurality of fibers comprising a polymer and having surface capillaries characterized by one or more grooves along the length of the fiber ~~that are formed by extruding the polymer through a die~~, wherein the fibers are bound ~~within a structure~~ to the device and have a deployed configuration that fills the lumen of a vessel having a diameter corresponding to that of a human vessel in the form of a porous structure that blocks a substantial majority of particulates with a diameter greater than 0.2 mm.
2. (Original) The embolism protection device of claim 1 wherein fibers comprise a hydrophilic polymer.
3. (Original) The embolism protection device of claim 1 wherein the fibers comprise polyester.
4. (Original) The embolism protection device of claim 1 wherein the fibers comprise a bioresorbable polymer.
5. (Original) The embolism protection device of claim 1 wherein the fibers are within a fabric.

6. (Original) The embolism protection device of claim 1 wherein the fibers are curled.
7. (Original) The embolism protection device of claim 1 wherein the fibers have a curled configuration at body temperature.
8. (Original) The embolism protection device of claim 1 wherein the fibers are in a bundle.
9. (Original) The embolism protection device of claim 1 wherein the fibers are grafted with a second polymer.
10. (Original) The embolism protection device of claim 9 wherein the second polymer is a hydrogel.
11. (Original) The embolism protection device of claim 1 wherein the structure within the vessel has an effective pore size to trap a majority of emboli with a diameter larger than 0.2 mm while a majority of particulates with a diameter smaller than 0.001 mm pass.
12. (Original) The embolism protection device of claim 1 further comprising a biocompatible adhesive.
13. (Original) The embolism protection device of claim 1 further comprising a tether.

14. (Original) A method for trapping emboli, the method comprising placing an embolism protection device of claim 1 within a patient's vessel.

15-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein a plurality of fibers with surface capillaries are placed within the patient's vessel.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein the plurality of fibers are in a bundle.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the placing of the fiber is performed with a delivery tool that associates with the fiber.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein the delivery tool holds the fiber in a configuration for passage through a sheath for deployment of the fiber within a vessel.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein a plurality of fibers are deployed and the plurality of fibers fill the lumen of the vessel with an effective pore size to trap a selected range of emboli.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the delivery tool comprises a guidewire.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the fiber is curled at body temperature.
28. (Previously Presented) The embolism protection device of claim 13 wherein the tether is a guidewire.
29. (Previously Presented) The embolism protection device of claim 13 wherein the embolism protection device is attached to the tether with an adhesive.